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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 28 | Min 14 | Humidity 50% Generally cloudy sky. Misty morning Sensex 57,124 | Nifty 17,003 | Gold 48,140 | Silver 62,319 | Dollar 75.07 | Euro 84.92 | GBP 100.59

Doctors urge citizens to shelve travel plans, avoid large gatherings and strictly follow covid appropriate behaviour this New Year

STILL LIFE

Omicron spoiler alert for year-enders

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End of the year social gatherings must strictly follow covid appropriate behaviour, the doctors BM spoke to said, taking into account the rapidly spreading Omicron variant of the coronavirus.

Health experts in the city are of the view that citizens should up their guard against covid-19, no matter what, 'as it is not a time for leisure'.

With many citizens making plans for travel during the festive season and the vacation period, doctors are spreading a word of caution urging the public to avoid interstate travel altogether if possible.

Dr Ravindra Mehta, member of the BBMP's covid-19 task force and senior pulmonologist at Apollo Hospital, said unfortunately this festive season — with Christmas gatherings, New Year celebrations, marriages, family reunions and such

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5 »

O-DENT IN HOLIDAY PLANS

NEW YEAR RUSH AT RELIGIOUS PLACES
PAGE 5

KAUSHIK JN

Christmas Tree made of 293 Covishield and 32 Covaxin vials (empty vials) at Bangalore Medical College

> "How fast the Omicron variant spread across Europe should be a lesson for us and points to how cautious we must be.
> — Dr Jagadish Hiremath, Aasra Hospital

A CYCLIST'S HAVEN

IT'S PLAYTIME, KIDS!

NEW SET OF SOPS?

Entrance exam coaching
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168 NID, 1252 NIFT, 52 IIT, 74 CEPT,
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3 THINGS TO DO

01 Get webbed

The Galleria Mall, Yelahanka, is all decked up to celebrate Christmas and the new year. In sync with the season's biggest movie release, Spiderman – No Way Home, the mall is following the theme Spiderman's Christmas where giant Spiderman installations have been put up throughout the mall. For entertaining visitors, the mall is organising LED parade, magic show, colouring workshops, greeting card-making workshops etc. **Where: Galleria Mall, Yelahanka When: Ongoing**

02 Shop till you drop

G Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath is organising the Bangalore Arts and Craft Mela. The exhibition will display ethnic and contemporary arts and crafts, clothing, handloom sarees, jewellery, home décor, furniture, and handicraft products direct from the artisans and craft persons from across India. You can even get to directly interact with the artisans and know the story behind each product. Besides the bazaar, there will be fun activities like live music performances, workshops, and more **Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Seshadripuram; When: Till Jan 2**

03 The craft of dance

The Attakkalari India Biennial 2021-22 is hosting a virtual session on the craft of dance writing in January '22 called Writing on Dance Lab. To be held virtually from January 8 to 17, the intensive is designed for individuals who are interested in engaging in methods of documenting, writing, and archiving dance. Eight selected participants will be mentored by acclaimed German dance journalist and critic Melanie Suchy with dance practitioner and researcher Meghna Bhardwaj coordinating the entire workshop.
Register by Dec 27, www.attakkalaribiennial.org/writing-on-dance.
For queries: ligament@attakkalari.org

A CYCLIST'S HAVEN

Bengaluru is all set to welcome its first 'Pedal Port' where cyclists can repair a flat tyre, tighten seat posts, and fill air by themselves, with ease

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For any cyclist, the biggest nightmare is repairing them or having a flat tyre, especially in the middle of nowhere. With the rising number of cyclists in Bengaluru, for the first time, the city is all set to have a dedicated kiosk for the cyclists' community.

The first 'Pedal Port' will be launched on December 27 at Dr B R Ambedkar metro station exit near Vidhana Soudha, making it the city's first self-repairing bicycle kiosk.

IAS officer V Manjula who is the Commissioner of Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) is behind the initiative. Pedal Port is the first permanent cycle-repair kiosk with pump and tools like tyre levers, allen keys, spanners and screwdrivers where cyclists can fix tyre punctures, tighten seat posts, and fill air.

"When Church Street was made pedestrian-friendly, Pedal Port was tried out like a pilot project. We were able to use it when Church Street was closed every Sunday to vehicles and a lot of cyclists felt it to be very useful. I am sure it will be of great help to the cycle riders across the city," said Sathya Sankaran, Cycle Mayor of Bengaluru.

The first kiosk will be installed near Vidhana Soudha; (right) cyclists enjoy a rally in the city

Pedal Ports should be installed at each petrol pump

Local commuters are being encouraged to opt for bicycle with ongoing campaigns like 'My 15-minute city campaign' by Council for Active Mobility where people are asked to walk or take a bicycle for a destination reachable within 15 minutes. Private companies are also being asked to go green by adding cycle parking U- racks to their parking lots.

> **"We were able to use Pedal Port as a pilot project when Church Street was closed every Sunday to vehicles and a lot of cyclists felt it to be very useful**
> – V Manjula, Commissioner, Directorate of Urban Land Transport

"It's the inauguration of the first Pedal Port and if we manage to have one Pedal Port per ward, i.e., 200 wards or one for each gas station and if private businesses keep 10 per cent space of their parking lots free for bicycles, it could become a catalyst for change in commute for all the people across this city," Sathya explained to Bangalore Mirror.

Separate bicycle lanes are not enough

Cycling infrastructure in the city isn't limited to creation of separate bicycle lanes but requires attention on soft infrastructure as well. Taking Denmark's example, the city of Copenhagen has more than sixty per cent of the 2 million+ residents commuting by bicycle on a weekly basis which is possible by adding both hard infrastructure like separate cycling lanes and soft infrastructure like concise bicycle parking spots and cycle repair kiosks within every two kilometres.

According to Sathya: "I feel that factors like accessibility to parking and tools to repair the bicycle whereby you can quickly fill some air or fix your tyre and once you reach your destination you can park it safely with CCTV security will play a major part in encouraging people to switch from automobiles to bicycles; it is not just about creating a separate lane."

VK's 'Karnataka Against Drugs' to be launched today

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Vijay Karnataka, the highest read daily in Karnataka (the sister company of Bangalore Mirror) is all set to launch a socially critical campaign titled 'Karnataka Against Drugs' today.

The campaign will create awareness about the ill effects of banned drugs among the youth. This programme is being launched in partnership with the Government of Karnataka.

The campaign will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai at 9.30 am today at Vidhana Soudha's east gate. Home Minister Araga Jnanendra will launch the campaign logo. The campaign titled 'Karnataka Against Drugs' will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai at 9.30 am today at Vidhana Soudha's east gate. Home Minister Araga Jnanendra will launch the campaign logo.

A host of dignitaries including Rajneesh Goel (Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department), Praveen Sood (DG and IGP), N Manjunath Prasad (Principal Secretary to CM), Kamal Pant (Bengaluru City police commissioner), Dr PS Harsha (Commissioner, Department of Information and Public Relations), actor 'Golden Star' Ganesh, Actress Rachita Ram, Prof KR Venugopal (Vice-Chancellor, Bangalore University) and Prof Lingaraj Gandhi (Vice-Chancellor, Bengaluru City University) will also participate.

The programme will be open to one and all. Along with this, a host of programmes will take place, including a jatha from students of UVCE and other colleges affiliated to Bengaluru City University (BCU). Rallies of vintage cars, women bikers and cyclists will be other attractions of the programme.

It's playtime, kids!

Playgrounds and multi-sport courts to be constructed in six police quarters in the city to encourage children and staff to take up outdoor activities

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Police quarters in many parts of the city need a boost and playgrounds are a good place to start

"We want to encourage our staff as well to utilise the facility and play after work hours to keep themselves fit and stress-free

–Kamal Pant, City Police Commissioner

The city police are setting up multi-sport courts and kids' play areas inside police quarters for children who have been missing out on outdoor activities due to the pandemic and could not afford to play in private courts. The Rs 2-crore project is all set to begin in the six police quarters that have been identified in the city.

City Police Commissioner, Kamal Pant, said that due to the pandemic, children have been confined inside four walls and are missing out on outdoor sports. To encourage them to come out and play, the 'Adona Banni' initiative has been taken up by the Police Department.

"We want to provide them a safe and attractive place inside the police quarters where all of them can play games. We are getting a synthetic ground with markings for basketball, football, volleyball, throwball etc. It will have multiple markings for multiple sports and will be illuminated from 5 pm to 12 am so that children can play in the evening as well. We want to encourage our staff as well to utilise the facility and play after work hours to keep themselves fit and stress-free. There will be high nets put up covering the entire playground so that children can play freely without having to worry about running outside to get the ball."

He said that most of the apartment complexes have their own sports court where the children go and play and many even rent out courts to play games on weekends. "Similarly, we want these children to also come out and play in the newly planned playground and not feel left out. Infosys has sponsored Rs 68 lakh to build two multi-sport courts in two police quarters while the remaining four is being built using the welfare funds from the police department," he said.

Nisha James, DCP Admin, said that the department was also planning to provide a small kids play area next to the multi-sport court where the younger children can play. "We have identified the six police quarters where the playgrounds will be set up in the coming days. A certain amount from every police personnel will be deducted for welfare funds and from that, we will be using Rs 1.3 crore for the project."

There are a total of 62 police quarters in the city and the project will be covering the six identified quarters located in Binny Mill, CAR south, CAR central, CAR north, Anand Rao Circle and Kengeri. The project is also a part of Fit India program.

"In the future, we would want to add a small space for skating as well so that children can have fun and keep themselves engaged in sports. As children, a majority of them would want to learn skating and have a place to practice and it is not difficult to arrange for some space with smooth flooring for them," added Pant.

Whale vomit worth Rs 4 crore seized

Ambergris is a waxy substance that originates from the digestive system of the protected sperm whale and is very valuable in the fragrance industry

The Karnataka police on Saturday arrested three persons and seized over four kg Ambergris (whale vomit) worth Rs 4 crore.

According to South East Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Srinath Mahadev Joshi, based on a tip-off, the police arrested the accused near Bengaluru's Mico Layout.

"The accused had brought Ambergris from Tamil Nadu to Bengaluru to make easy money. About 4.1 kg of Ambergris has been seized from the accused person. The police have also seized a car used for the crime," he said.

Ambergris, which means grey amber in French, also known as floating gold, is a waxy substance that originates from the digestive system of the protected sperm whales. From there, ambergris floats around in the ocean for decades, where it hardens and becomes valuable. It is used in the high-end fragrance industry. Ambergris was the main ingredient in a super-expensive, 200-year-old perfume originally made by Marie Antoinette.

-Agencies

CCB sleuths seize 15 kg cannabis

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) unit of the anti-narcotics wing busted a drug racket and seized 15 kg of cannabis in Bengaluru's Gnanabharathi on Saturday, said Sandeep Patil, Joint Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru.
Six people have also been arrested in connection with the case.
"The arrest was made after close watch was kept on drug trafficking ahead of the new year," added Patil.

FAKE NEWS BUSTER MIRROR

SHOES UNLIKELY TO SPREAD COVID-19

THE CLAIMS
Many studies say that covid-19 can be transmitted via shoes.

SO, WHAT'S THE TRUTH?
According to the World Health Organisation's official website, the likelihood of covid-19 being spread via shoes and infecting individuals is very low. As a precautionary measure, however, particularly at homes where infants and small children crawl or play on floors, you may consider leaving your shoes at the entrance of your home. This will help prevent contact with dirt or any waste that could be carried on the soles of shoes.

BUST FAKE NEWS WITH MIRROR
9591233247
Let's separate the news from the noise, Bengaluru. Tell us about that incredible-sounding story/news/alert that you've received on WhatsApp or social media and Bangalore Mirror researchers and editors will see if it checks out. If it doesn't, we'll call it out

TOPCOMMENTS

Two-wheelers, be careful

Bangalore Mirror's story on December 25 'Twilight Zone' was received by readers with some extreme reactions.

A reader, Dr Anand R, (@anandr61912867) took a rather harsh stand and commented on social media, "This is 100 per cent senseless driving by them. None of them drive in the same (left) lane and many drive near the centre median. They deserve it."

K RAGAVAN (@write2ragavan) said, "Shocking revelation. Two-wheelers are usually very fast and rash, not caring for the pedestrians. Bicyclists too add to the causes. This is sad. Authorities should monitor two-wheelers on the road and regulate their speed."

WEBHITS

3 most-read articles on the Mirror site

1. Rode to joy
2. Karnataka the star for Indian cricket in 2021
3. US waives in-person interviews for visas such as H-1B

New set of SOPs?

Bommai and health department experts to discuss Omicron prevention strategies today; industry bodies are urging the CM not to announce a night curfew, say it'll affect their biz

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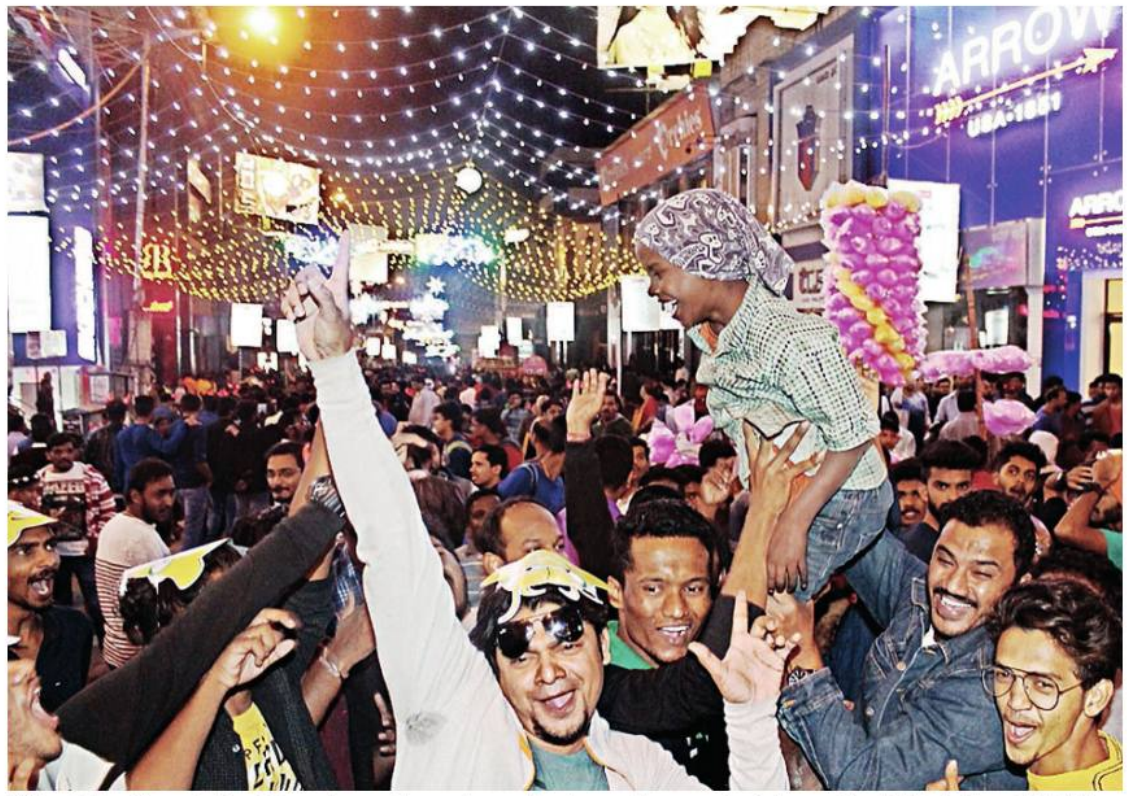
When everyone thought that final guidelines for the new year celebrations had released, CM Basavaraj Bommai called a meeting on Sunday, where he is expected to announce a fresh set of guidelines. Recently, the CM had announced a slew of measures to curb crowding during the New Year. With many states announcing night curfew and tighter curbs, now there are speculations as to what could be the next move of the CM.

Omicron cases are on the rise in neighbouring Maharashtra, Kerala and Tamil Nadu; this is a cause for concern, Bommai said on Saturday while interacting with the media persons in Hubballi. "At Sunday's meeting with experts, we will analyse the situation and come out with appropriate measures to prevent the spread of the variant in Karnataka," he said. The state health department is worried over the rise in cases of the Omicron variant. During festivals, the chance for the spread of the infection increases and health officials are tense over the turn of events in case of a possible "worse situation".

The industry bodies are urging the CM not to announce a night curfew. An industry expert said, "The production is picking up slowly. If there is a night curfew, this will not only affect production but also the employees as they have to rush home early. Currently, Metro has extended timings till late night while BMTC is operating night schedules. If the night curfew is announced, these services will be withdrawn. This may force the employees to leave their workplace earlier and the regular schedules of the company will be disturbed."

Meanwhile, many associations representing bars and restaurants have been urging the government to allow them to function as usual. The associations are petitioning the Government, saying that they have been affected financially during the lockdowns and previous night curfews.



NYE celebrations in Bengaluru have always been about people crowding places like Brigade Road. With the fear of covid still around, the authorities are becoming cautious with the safety regulations

Permission only to existing bookings: Top cop

Police commissioner Kamal Pant said that there is no permission to celebrate New Year at public places. Addressing a press conference, the police commissioner said that as per the guidelines issued earlier, no special programmes or DJ parties can be organised at pubs and clubs. "Like last year, we have to impose guidelines. Only those who have booked their reservations in pubs need to show their proof to enter. We are discussing it at local level and then we will issue fresh guidelines shortly. This is being done so that people don't go out unnecessarily. We will also prohibit gathering at particular places," Pant added.

> **"If the night curfew is announced, it may force the employees to leave their workplace early and the regular schedules of the company will be disturbed**
>
> –Industry expert

Just cloth masks may not be enough, say experts

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With the threat of the Omicron variant rising, the importance of mask protection is once again to the fore. The Maharashtra covid task force has asked the residents to 'upgrade' their masks. Many Bengaluru doctors concur with this.

Dr Pramod V Satya (Consultant Internal Medicine Manipal Hospital, Millers Road) said, "More than anything, a well fitted mask is very important. This means that a mask should cover the mouth, nose and fit tightly under the chin. Metal splint that keeps the mask tightly over the nasal bridge is important. Triple layered well-fitted masks should be worn. Vaccine or prior infection does not stop a virus from entering your body, it only reduces severity. Hence, it is our responsibility to provide a tight barrier for the virus. Well fitted triple layer FFP-2 mask is preferred."

Adding to his opinion, Dr Rajaram G (Consultant Paediatrician at Rainbow Children's Hospital, Marathahalli) stated that since Omicron is more infective as compared to other variants, using the right mask becomes very important. "High quality masks like N-95 are the best, but they are not easily available and are expensive. Most cloth masks are often made of single layer material, which offers minimal particle filtration. Hence, it's not advisable to wear only cloth masks. Using a surgical mask with a cloth mask on top of it would be even better." Guiding people to wear masks properly, he said, "Touch only the bands or ties when putting on and taking off your mask. Wash your hands before and after touching the mask."

Masks, especially the one that fits appropriately without causing aerosol to spread has been of paramount importance during the last two years, and still continue to be one of the main pillars of the fight against covid said, Dr Srikanta J T (Consultant - Paediatric Interventional Pulmonology and Sleep Medicine, Aster CMI Hospital.

"We recommend people to wear FFP-2 type masks. It is a European standard for mask efficiency. FFP-2 masks filter at least 94 per cent of aerosols, including airborne viruses like covid-19. With high infectiousness of Omicron, it becomes even more pertinent to wear one that has proven efficacy (i.e. reduced risk of aerosol infections by 0.1 per cent). Simple face masks with its single layer can increase the risk significantly. If we plan to prevent a future pandemic, using FFP-2 masks is going to play a major role."

Dr Sachin Kumar (Senior Consultant, Pulmonology and Critical Care Medicine, Sakra World Hospital) said, "A mask should cover your nose and mouth. More often, it's seen that people's nose are out of the mask, which is quite hazardous. Cloth masks when worn properly are also good, but when in doubt, wear double masks. As of now, the masks are the best vaccine against covid, especially the Omicron variant."

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Heap of t-rubble
Muneshwaranagar

Residents of Muneshwaranagar have been facing issues while commuting with a heap of rubble lying beside the petrol pump here. Many people come to the fuel station, located on the road adjacent to Ullal Main Road. With the rubble lying unattended, people are finding it difficult to use the road.

Shoddy work
Muneshwaranagar

A stretch near Muneshwaranagar petrol pump is damaged, with craters being formed on the road. Water gets filled when it rains and causes problems to pedestrians and commuters. Vehicular movement on this stretch gets restricted to give space for children to play during evenings.

Fix it already!
Ullal Main Road

One of the sidewalks at Ullal Main Road Circle is damaged. Buses coming from Nagarabhavi and going towards Kengeri Main Road stop here. It makes it difficult for people to board or deboard buses. Authorities should fix it at the earliest.

0-dent in holiday plans

Many international travellers have had to put their plans on hold as uncertainty looms over covid variant

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The frequent changes in quarantine and testing rules has left travellers quite anxious

Ajay Kumar S, a Bengaluru-based businessman, works in Ireland. For the last few months, he had been planning to visit his folks by December-end and organise a naming ceremony for his son. But, the change in travel rules and Omicron scare has forced him to put off the plan. With India's tally of Omicron cases increasing, many Indians abroad who were planning to come home for the holidays have had to change their plans. This is a dampener as even during the summer break, many could not return as India was in the throes of a massive second wave then. Their wait to be reunited with families has just got longer.

A digital marketing analyst who has his flight booked to Bengaluru from Qatar is panicking due to the current quarantine guidelines.

Booster shots from Jan 10 to frontline workers

India will start administering covid-19 booster shots to healthcare and frontline workers from January 10, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday.
In an address to the nation, he also said those aged 15-18 years would start receiving their covid-19 vaccinations from January 3. — Reuters

Though the middle eastern countries are not in the high-risk list, yet with the frequent changes in quarantine rules, the international passengers are confused.

"Initially it was stated that only those coming from high risk countries need to test at the airport and quarantine themselves. After this another rule was brought in Karnataka that all the international returnees should undergo a seven-day home quarantine even if their results are negative," said the analyst. He is to get engaged shortly so it was not possible for him to quarantine himself and he wanted to cancel his tickets. "However, a day later the Karnataka government revised the guidelines and announced quarantine is only for high-risk countries. It has been so confusing and what is scarier is if there is a lockdown, then I would get stuck," he said.

> **"If the government suddenly changes the quarantine rules, it will get difficult for us. But I have to get some work done. So we are taking our chances** –A doctor from Saudi

Another passenger, a doctor by profession, who has a flight from Saudi Arabia to Bengaluru he is getting nervous as the date of journey approaches.

"If the government suddenly changes the quarantine rules, it will get difficult for my children and me. But I have some work that has to be done. We are taking our chances, and just hoping there are no rules change and that cases remain in control," said the doctor.

7 Omicron cases detected in K'taka

Seven new cases of Omicron variant have been confirmed in Karnataka including a 76-year-old male, Bengaluru (travelled from Delhi), 30-year-female, Bengaluru (arrived from UAE),) 63-year-old male, Bengaluru (arrived from Zambia), 54-year-old male, Bengaluru (primary contact of UK traveller), 21-year-old male, Bengaluru (arrived from UK), 62-year-old male, Bengaluru (travelled from Delhi) and 15-year-old, Bengaluru (travelled from USA). All their primary and secondary contacts have been tracked, traced and tested.

A student of the University of Toronto, Canada told Bangalore Mirror, "I have been in the US since last November and was planning to meet my parents this July. However, due to the second wave in India and then with my ongoing semester, I kept on delaying my trip. I thought finally during Christmas, I'll come back but after looking at the current guidelines issued by the embassy, I have cancelled my tickets again." .

And there are those who booked their tickets during the last month when the covid-19 cases had significantly dropped in India. Like this student travelling from Germany to attend a wedding who was supposed to arrive just three days prior to the wedding, who will now have to follow the recent more stringent travel guidelines as well as mandatory quarantine of seven days.

Similar is the case of NRI students in India trying to go back to Oman and the Arab Emirates, where international travel rules have been tightened leading to rescheduling and cancellation of their trips. All in all, the Omicron threat has left the weddings, festivals and holiday season quite scarred, especially for those living, working or studying abroad.

'Not a time for leisure'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

planned — when everything was scheduled by families assuming covid-19 has gone, is now being interrupted by the unceremonious appearance of Omicron.

"The experience from the last wave of covid-19 tells us, in the next 2 to 4 weeks, Omicron may spread very fast because it's at least 2 to 3 times more transmissible than the Delta variant. In this background, though people were exhausted and looking forward to life as usual, it makes a lot of sense to maturely start thinking of reducing gatherings and celebrations so as to control the spread of this particular variant," Dr Mehta clarified.

With regards to the festive season and holidays, the Union health ministry has released new guidelines — it is imperative for all of us to adhere to the guidelines, said Dr Satyanarayana Mysore, consultant pulmonologist at Manipal Hospital.

"No doubt New Year is a time of celebrations and welcoming the good fortune of the coming year. However, it is far more important to be cautious and not to treat this as time for leisure. Strictly following covid appropriate behaviour is far more critical now than any other time for all of us. Omicron is knocking at the door. Every single day we are seeing increased incidence. Rather than panic, I think it is important to realise that monoclonal antibodies may not be that effective as far as Omicron is concerned. Therefore, the limited treatment armamentarium justifies the need for heightened caution. Interstate travel, large family get-togethers and parties, have come under the scanner of the Union health ministry: there is a need to reduce the number of members at such gatherings. This may be wise since we are expecting a third wave in late January or early February," Dr Mysore told BM.

How fast the Omicron variant spread across Europe should be a lesson for us and points to how cautious we must be in dealing with this variant, said Dr Jagadish Hiremath, chairman of Aasra Hospital.

"With the year coming to an end, we are seeing people travelling for leisure. However, now is the time we raise our guard against every possible chance of covid-19 infection to ourselves and the people around us. Vaccination keeps a healthy individual at lower risk of infection though cases of vaccine evasion still exist and are seen widely within India and across the globe. During the past waves of the pandemic, we have seen how individuals mingling with the public have brought the infection home which puts the vulnerable such as the elderly, and individuals with comorbidities at a higher risk of infection," Dr Hiremath noted.

He added that currently travellers from Kerala and Maharashtra are required to produce an RT PCR test report upon arrival in Karnataka. "Presently every state is seeing a surge in covid clusters. This makes it imperative that we need to have stricter measures and everyone from outside Karnataka must carry an RT PCR test report while travelling to Karnataka. It is imperative that at this point in time that we must prioritise health and safety over merriment to avoid a third wave," Dr Hiremath explained

"The worry is the Omicron variant, if it spreads, will cause problems. We are hearing that it will probably cause mild infections and should not be that bad. We have suffered enough in the previous waves. We need to do our best at the individual level as well as state mandated level to reduce gatherings and travel till we know more about this variant of concern so that we don't face those dark days all over again," Dr Mehta of the covid-19 task force further stressed.

NYE and the pilgrims' progress

Religious spots and domestic tourist destinations are witnessing a rush of travellers

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With international travel becoming risky, it is the domestic destinations that are turning out to be huge draws. As the new year approaches, people are rushing to all the tourist and religious spots. Most of the resorts and rooms near temples in the state are booked as people want to start a new year with a temple visit.

Male Mahadeshwara and Biligiri Rangana betta are witnessing heavy demand in room bookings. In MM hills, there are dormitories and 10 guest houses with a total of 350 rooms. JSS and Adi Chunchanagiri Mutts also have more than 100 rooms. The guest houses are allowed only 40 per cent bookings and most of these are booked.

The remaining rooms can be taken by devotees visiting the temple. The government banned new year celebrations in public, but there are no restrictions for visiting temples. So, it is expected the rush towards religious places will be more this time. Male Mahadeshwara Betta, Biligiri Rangana Betta, Himavad Gopalaswamy betta, Bandipur, K.Gudi, and Bharachukki are expecting more tourists. Male Mahadeshwara Betta Development Corporation Secretary Jaya Vibhava Swamy says, "Forty per cent of guest houses are reserved for online registration. The remaining rooms are open to the devotees who visit the temple."

> **"40% of guest houses are reserved for online registration. The remaining rooms are available**
> –Vibhava Swamy, Male Mahadeshwara Betta Development Corporation

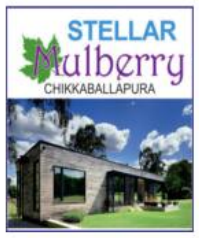
Bandipur and Nandi

If you are planning to head out, then check where you can go as many places are barred for New Year fetes. On December 31 and January 1, the Bandipur area is restricted for New Year celebration or stay and there will be no online booking available for it.

As of now, there is no restriction on safari. "There will be the usual morning and evening safari, but there is no room to stay during the New Year," according to forest officials. Meanwhile, Nandi hills will be barred for visitors for the New Year. Entry will be blocked from 6 pm, December 30 till 6 am on January 2.

real estate

FARM HOUSES



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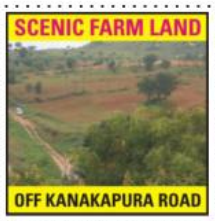

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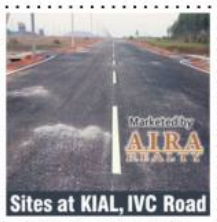

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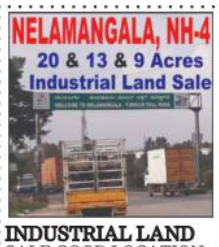

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I, Keerthi Sarvareddy Residing at No.20, Prakruthi Building, Bandappa Garden, Muthyal Nagar, Bangalore-560054 have changed my name to KEERTHI NALLA REDDY vide affidavit dated 24.12.2021 sworn before notary: H.K.Gopala Gowda, Bangalore

I ACHALA RAJMOHAN SHETTY, W/O,KAUP RAJMOHAN SHETTY R/o No 41,2nd Cross,2nd Stage, Kirloskar Colony, Basaveswar Nagar, Bangalore 560079. Have changed my name to,ACHALA SHETTY,For All purposes.

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CM is here to stay, not flying abroad

Party leaders clarify that Bommai is not going anywhere for treatment. They also expressed confidence that Bommai will remain CM till 2023

As rumours were flying thick that Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will fly abroad for a knee replacement surgery, both the CM and his cabinet colleagues have clarified now that there was no such proposal. Revenue Minister R Ashoka said, "We have not heard that CM was going for a treatment. He is fine now and doesn't need any surgery as of now." Meanwhile, Bommai also ruled out going abroad saying that the programme he was supposed to attend in Davos has been postponed.

"I was supposed to attend a programme in Davos, which has been postponed. As a result, my foreign trip is cancelled," Bommai told reporters in Hubballi.

Meanwhile, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi and BJP's Karnataka unit chief Nalin Kumar Kateel ruled out leadership change in the State, saying Basavaraj Bommai would continue till the next election in 2023 as CM. "Bommai is going to be the Chief Minister till the next election, which is 2023. There is no leadership change," Kateel told reporters in Bengaluru. The Chief Minister, who would complete five months in office in the next couple of days, had turned emotional in his home town Shiggaon in Haveri district a few days ago and said he was aware of the fact that posts and positions were not forever, which had added fuel to the rumour fire. However, Kateel termed these talks of leadership change, a conspiracy.

According to him, even when senior BJP leader BS Yediyurappa became the chief minister, speculations had started about his exit but he remained in power for two years. Kateel also ruled out Bommai going abroad for the treatment of his knee related ailment. "He is not going abroad. There is nothing wrong with his health but only some leg-related issues for which he is getting treatment. He is healthy. His leg problem will be cured here only," Kateel said.

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THE YEAR THAT WAS

The twists and turns of Karnataka politics

DR SANDEEP SHASTRI
BY INVITATION
mybangaloremirror
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From the lens of politics, was 2021 different in any significant ways for Karnataka? Like in the previous two years, the state had a 'new' Chief Minister, whose political actions and statements were closely scrutinised. The year had its fair share of political drama and intrigue. It also had its quota of promises made and hopes unfulfilled!

The state BJP saw for sure the end of an era under the leadership of its chief architect, Yediyurappa. A new leadership was ushered in under Basavaraj Bommai. Through the early part of 2020, the indications of a leadership change were patently visible to any keen observer. Yediyurappa seemed to be have lost the zeal to govern and the second wave of the pandemic brought his government additional challenges. The veteran was a pale shade of his past and clearly saw the writing on the wall that a transition to a new leadership would happen, sooner than later. When the final moment did come, he exited with grace, consented to the name of his successor as recommended by the Central leadership and hoped to remain as the chief mentor for his party. Chief mentor he surely remains, more in terms of the respect accorded to him. His influence clearly seems to be on the decline. This was visible in the composition of the Bommai ministry and allocation of portfolios. The former Chief Minister was given a respectful hearing but that did not translate into any concrete action.

As the New Year begins, Bommai would be completing close to six months in office. The honeymoon period is clearly over. He has managed to take all factions along but one is yet to see any visible impact of the new leadership. His party losing a seat in his home district in the assembly by elections and being unable to secure a majority in the Council has forced him on the back foot. One wonders whether he took an 'insurance policy' by declaring in a public address that no position is permanent. Thus the year ends with an element of uncertainty on whether 2022 will see continuity or change in leadership.

2021 was a year with its share of political drama and intrigue. it also had its quota of promises made and hope fulfilled. What will 2022 bring?

The leading opposition, the Congress looked to be acting in fits and starts in challenging the ruling party. While the Congress fervently hopes for Karnataka voters sticking to their 'revolving door' policy of rejecting the ruling party in every election since 1985, it would need much more from the principal opposition to challenge the ruling party in 2023. The preparation for that needs to begin early in 2022. The biggest challenge of the Congress is to come together, stay together and work together. The KPCC President and Leader of the Opposition seemed to have realised the need for them to work in tandem. How the road shapes up, will also depend on the central leadership of the party providing the right direction.

The Janata Dal seems to be in a state of drift. It seems unclear of the direction it wishes to head either in terms of state or national politics. Its shrinking support base is a reflection of this drift.

A serious matter of concern for Karnataka is it slipping back in terms of critical development indicators. Other states seemed to have stolen a march over Karnataka.

Will 2022 reverse that trend? Is our political leadership of different political parties and the bureaucracy ready for this catch-up?

(Dr Shastri is a keen observer of Karnataka politics for the last four decades)

HC grants interim approval for holding prayer service at residence

Karnataka High Court has granted interim approval to a woman for holding prayers at her residence in Udupi district of Karnataka on Friday.

The lady from Udupi, Esthela Louies has questioned the police notice issued to her in the court.

She claimed that the notice by the Karnataka police on October 26 has violated her fundamental rights. She prayed before the court that she has been conducting prayers since 11 years at her residence. The police stated in their notice that she was holding gatherings without police consent and licence and it was a violation of law. The police had asked her to submit documents in this regard.

After woman from Udupi goes to court saying police violated her fundamental rights by issuing her a notice on holding gatherings, court permits meets

Considering her plea, a bench headed by Justice Krishna S Dixith, permitted Esthela Louies to hold service meetings. It also instructed her not to disturb the neighbours. She was also asked to honour the condition that police personnel are free to make audio and video recordings of service meetings. **IANS**

Most powerful telescope is in orbit

James Webb Space Telescope in action

The world's most powerful space telescope on Saturday blasted off into orbit, headed to an outpost 1.5 million kilometres (930,000 miles) from Earth, after several delays caused by technical hitches.

The James Webb Space Telescope, some three decades and billions of dollars in the making, left Earth enclosed in its Ariane 5 rocket from Kourou Space Centre in French Guiana.

"What an amazing day. It's truly Christmas," said Thomas Zurbuchen, head of scientific missions for NASA, which together with the European and Canadian space agencies, ESA and ACS, built the telescope.

ESA chief Josef Aschbacher said he was "very happy to say that we've delivered the spacecraft into orbit very precisely... that Ariane 5 performed extremely well".

This was key, since placing the spacecraft in orbit helps economise on the fuel the telescope will need to reach its final destination and perform well after that.

It is expected to take a month to reach its remote destination.

It is set to beam back new clues that will help scientists understand more about the origins of the Universe and Earth-like planets beyond our solar system. Named after a former NASA director, Webb follows in the footsteps of the legendary Hubble -- but intends to show humans what the Universe looked like even closer to its birth nearly 14 billion years ago.

—AFP

Arianespace's Ariane 5 rocket with NASA's James Webb Space Telescope onboard

READY RECKONER

Corp FDs witness rise in popularity, offer 100–150 bps over bank deposits

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Company	Interest Rates (%)		
HDFC	6.25 (33 mon)	6.70 (66 mon)	6.80 (99 mon)
Bajaj Finance	5.65 (12-23 mon)	6.40 (24-35 mon)	6.80 (36-60 mon)
ICICI Home Finance	6.25 (39 mon)	6.35 (45 mon)	6.70 (65 mon)

Source: Money Honey Financial

PAGE 12 Sudeep's look for Kabzaa is out

AL
lahari FILMS
SHIVANANDI
BLOCK BUSTER HIT
YUVARAJA NIKHIL KUMAR IN
ಧೈರ್ಯಂ
VIJAY KUMAR KONDA CHANDRU MANOHARAN SUNIL GOWDA
ENTIRE KARNATAKA DISTRIBUTION BY SHIVA NANDI ENTERTAINMENTS THROUGH KVN PRODUCTIONS
TIMINGS: 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30
KG ROAD
MAGADI ROAD PRASANNA JP NAGAR SIDDALINGESHWARA SANKEY ROAD CAUVERY AVALAHALLI VENKATESHWARA MOHAN CAUVERY GOWDANPALYA SRINIVASA KAMALANAGAR VEERABADRESHWARA YESHVANTHPURA GOVARDHAN KODIGEHALLI RAJMURULI BANASHANKARI ESHWARI PEENYA BHARATHI SANJAYNAGAR VAIBHAV BOMANAHALLI KRISHNA TAVAREKERE BALAJI K R PURAM KRISHNA CHIKABANAVARA ASHOKA LEGGERE AAKASH HARINAGARA VINAYAKA KENGERI ROBIN GOTTIGERE LAKSHMI GOLLARATTI VENKATESHWARA SULTHANPALAYA PUSHPANJALI ULLAL VAJRESHWARI NAGAVARA PRUTHVI YELAHANKA PRAKASH
ANUPAMA
Swagath
MG ROAD | J C ROAD
PVR
FORUM MALL ORION MALL GT WORLD MALL MSR REGALIA VAISHNAVI SAPHIRE VR MALL VEGA CITY MALL SPIRIT MALL CINEMAX 2 ARENA ORION UPTOWN MALL
Cinépolis
ETA MALL MEENAKSHI MALL ORION EAST FUN CINEMAS
INOX
GARUDA MALL SWAGATH MALL MANTRI MALL CENTRAL MALLA LIDO MALL FORUM VALUE MALL BROOKFIELD RMZ MALL GARUDA YELAHANKA MEENAKSHI MALL ETA MALL ORION EAST MALL GRAND SIGMA
GOPALAN CINEMAS
ARCH MALL GRAND MALL INNOVATION MALL SIGNATURE MALL LEGACY MALL
INNOVATIVE MULTIPLEX
ROCKLINE cinemas

WORLDWIDE RELEASE ON 31ST DECEMBER
PVR FORUM | ORION | VAISHNAVI | VEGACITY | REGALIA | VR | MARKETCITY | UPTOWN | ARENA SPIRIT | GT | AURA | CINEPOLIS MEENAKSHI | FUN | S J R | ETA | ORION EAST | SHANTINIKETAN INOX MANTRI | CENTRAL | SWAGATH | YELAHANKA | GARUDA | BROOKFIELD | FORUM | LIDO | RMZ GOPALAN ARCH | INNOVATIVE | LEGACY | SIGNATURE MULTIPLEX | GRAND | KINO KADUGODI INNOVATIVE MARATHHALLI | ROCKLINE CINEMAS JALAHALLI | & OTHER CINEMAS
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STORY & DIRECTION S.J.SINU
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BHAWANA SOMAAYA | SALIL ACHARYA | PARAG CHHAPEKAR | BHAVIKK SANGGHVI
RJ DIVYA SOLGAMA | HINDUSTAN TIMES | DNA | DIVYA BHASKAR
SUMIT KADEL | FILMIBEAT | ZEE BUSINESS | HINDI FILMBEAT | THE WEEK
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83
A KABIR KHAN FILM
(IN KANNADA)
IN HINDI, TAMIL, TELUGU, KANNADA & MALAYALAM
A RELIANCE ENTERTAINMENT & PVR PICTURES RELEASE
PVR Forum Mall - Koramangala | Orion Mall - Whitefield | MSR Regalia | Phoenix Market City | Spirit Mall | Arena Mall - Nekkundi | VR Mall | Vaishanvi Mall Vega City Mall | Orian Uptown | Garuda Mall - Mysore | Forum City Mall - Mysore
Cinépolis RMM | Orion Mall - Whitefield | ETA Namma Mall - Binneypet Shantiniketan SJR Central Mall | FUN
INOX Garuda Mall | Mantri Square Mall | Central Mall | Value Mall - Whitefield Lido - Ulsoor | Manipal | Jaynagar | RMZ Mall - Yalahanka | Brokfield | Satyam - Mysore | Garuga Yalahanka | SBP Horizon
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THE MOST LOVED FILM OF 2021
2ND WEEK
MARVEL STUDIOS
SPIDER-MAN
No Way Home
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IMAX 4DX MX4D SCREENX 4DGS Dolby DBOX 3D 2D
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BANGALORE PVR CINEMAS FORUM | ORION | VAISHNAVI | VEGACITY | REGALIA | MARKETCITY | VR MALL | UPTOWN | ARENA | SPIRIT | GT MALL | SPI AURA | INOX MANTRI CENTRAL | SWAGATH | LIDO | GARUDA YELAHANKA | GARUDA | BROOKFIELD | FORUM VALUE MALL | RMZ | CINEPOLIS MEENAKSHI | FUN | S J R SPECTRUM | ETA | ORION EAST SHANTINIKETAN | GOPALAN CINEMAS ARCADE | INNOVATIVE | LEGACY | SIGNATURE MINIPLEX | GRAND | INNOVATIVE MULTIPLEX MARATHHALLI | KINO KADUGODI SWAGATH SHANKARNAG M.G.ROAD | SWAGATH POORNIMA J.C.ROAD | HMT CINEMA JALAHALLI | SRINIVASA S.G.PALYA | ARUNA SRI RAMPURAM VINAYAKA D.J.HALLI | BALAJI CINEMA CHIKKALASANDRA | AMRUTH KACHARAKANAHALLI | SIDDHESHWARA J.P.NAGAR | ALSO AT OTHER CINEMAS NEAR YOU

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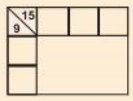
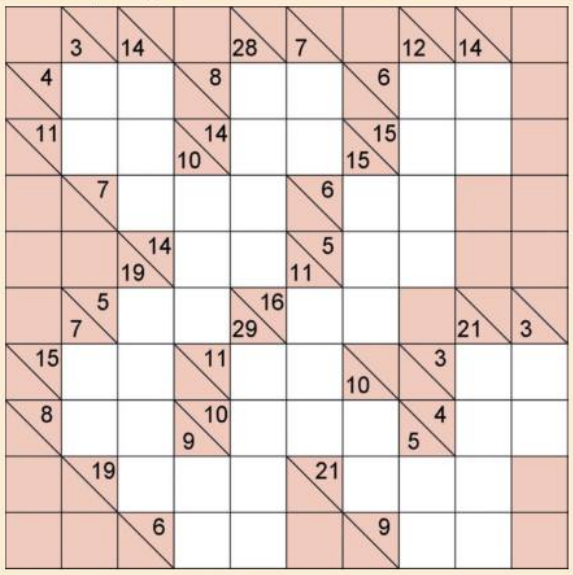
Kakuro

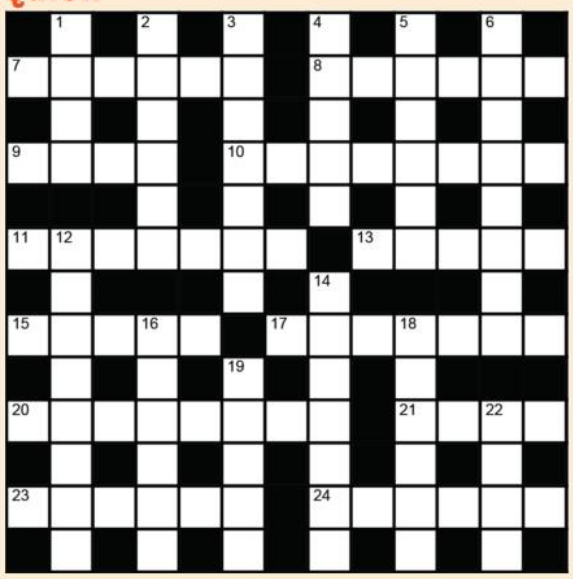
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Quentin Tarantino's ___ Unchained (6)
8 Route for jets (6)
9 Operatic solo (4)
10 Root vegetables (8)
11 Giving praise (7)
13 Facial hair (5)
15 Keep or hide away (5)
17 Letter (7)
20 Horsy enthusiast? (4-4)
21 Ashes are kept in them (4)
23 One shedding tears? (6)
24 Persuading or inducing (6)

DOWN

1 Slightly open (4)
2 Progressing (6)
3 Firm (7)
4 Core group (5)
5 Alloy of copper and tin (6)
6 Chess champion Gary ___ (8)
12 Aardvark or pangolin (3-5)
14 Like lemons or oranges? (7)
16 Cleans with a broom (6)
18 Thick greasy mud? (6)
19 Holiday spot in Karnataka (5)
22 Convent women (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: M EQUALS H

Q HIEU OR KYRLMQNHFQYH HMNH ATAFRIPA MNHAY OA. MA YNQU Q ZNY CAQPJ FQUQL-BEIBY-ATAFRIPA MNYP'H OAH OA RAH.

Linemaro

If beauty were a grain of sand, you'd be a million beaches

Mindchow

Nothing lasts forever – not even your troubles

Joke of the day

Two TV antennas got married. The wedding reception was boring, but the reception was great!

Loop

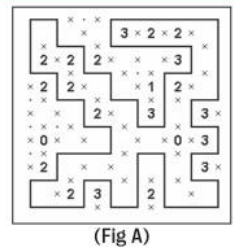
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

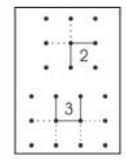
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

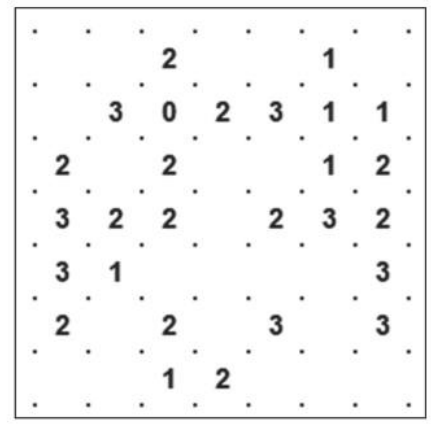
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



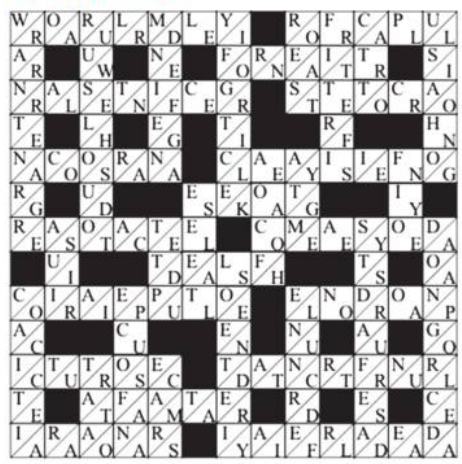
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



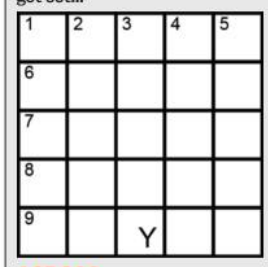
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Paste; 6 Up nil;
7 De Pun; 8 Gamer;
9 Reply

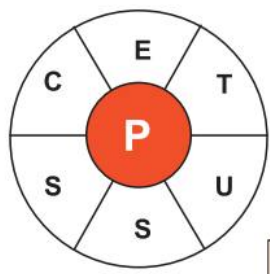
DOWN

1 Lumps; 2 Lap up;
3 Peary; 4 Get in;
5 E nerd

Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the last segment?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 07 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

				2	3	4		
	6	3		9	8			
4			5					
	2	5		8			7	3
	1						5	
6	4			5		1	9	
					5			8
			9	7		3	6	
		6	8	3				

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

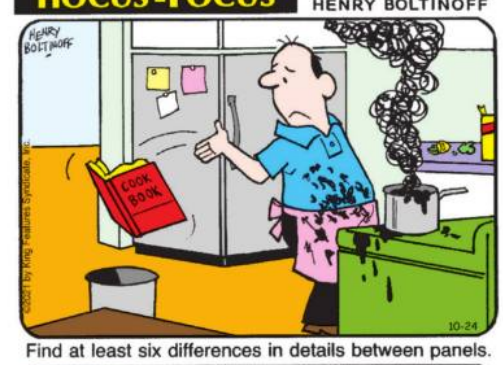
Easy = 5
2 3 5 5

Medium = 62
2 8 8 9

Hard = 12
2 5 6 4

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

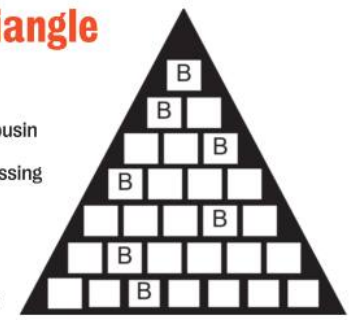
Differences: 1. Pot handle is longer. **2.** Trash can is moved. **3.** Hand is moved. **4.** Man is thinner. **5.** Ear is different. **6.** Book is smaller.

Riddler

Weight in my belly, Trees on my back, Nails in my ribs, Feet I do lack. What am I?

Alpha triangle

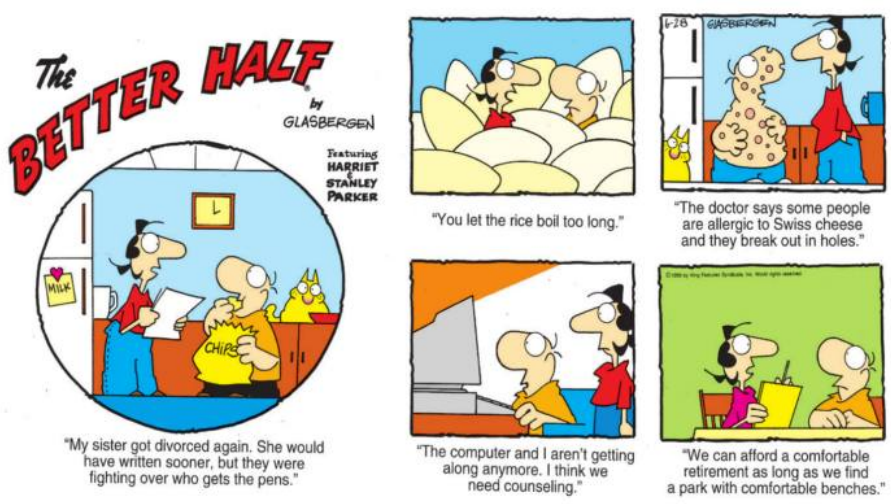
1 Type of vitamin
2 Two, prefix
3 Curved bone
4 Camembert's cousin
5 Clan
6 ____ dictum: passing remark
7 He has financial obligations

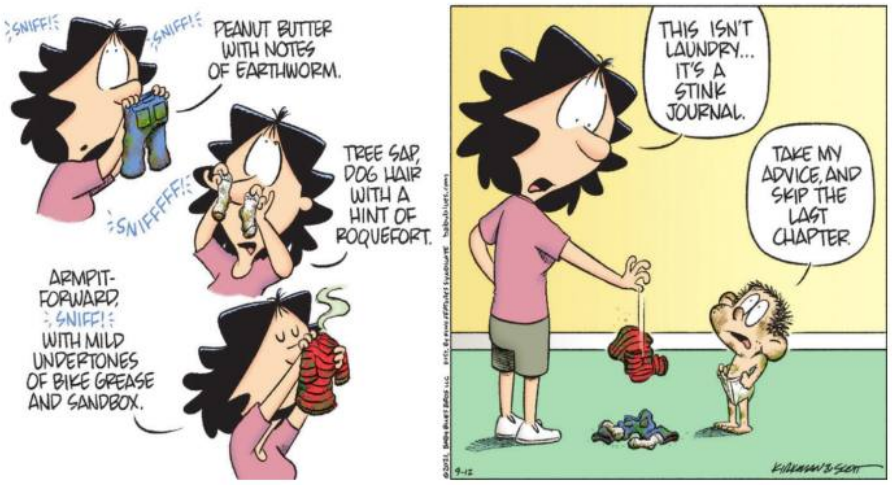


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
MILK
CHIPS
"My sister got divorced again. She would have written sooner, but they were fighting over who gets the pens."
"You let the rice boil too long."
"The doctor says some people are allergic to Swiss cheese and they break out in holes."
"The computer and I aren't getting along anymore. I think we need counseling."
"We can afford a comfortable retirement as long as we find a park with comfortable benches."


SNIFF!
PEANUT BUTTER WITH NOTES OF EARTHWORM.
SNIFFFF!
TREE SAP, DOG HAIR WITH A HINT OF ROQUEFORT.
ARMPIT-FORWARD. SNIFF! WITH MILD UNDERTONES OF BIKE GREASE AND SANDBOX.
THIS ISN'T LAUNDRY... IT'S A STINK JOURNAL.
TAKE MY ADVICE, AND SKIP THE LAST CHAPTER.

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
STAN LEE
THE SENTRY'S PRACTICALLY RIGHT ON TOP OF US--
--AND YOU BROUGHT RONAN HERE?
RIGHT NOW, THAT KREE KILL-BOT'S JUST RECKLESSLY MARAUDING.
BUT IF IT WAKES RONAN UP, AND THEY JOIN FORCES--
RONAN DID WAKE UP, BACK THERE IN THE DESERT--
--JUST LONG ENOUGH TO GIVE ME AN IDEA OF HOW TO DEFEAT HIM!
I VOTE WE LISTEN TO HER, ROCKET--
--BEFORE THAT WALKING TANK GETS IN RANGE!
KRAAKKK
MJ'S CUNNING PLAN!
STAN LEE 8-9 SAVIUK/SAMNOTT

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel very dull. It may make you lazy and careless; you are likely to lose focus from work. Impatience may pull you down negatively. Kids and spouse's health may make you upset. You should avoid making investments in assets. Love birds should avoid making arguments in family matters.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may find negative vibrations around you, which may make you unhappy. You are advised to avoid making investments on worthless assets. Your friends are not likely to be supportive today. You should not expect more from them in terms of help, otherwise it may make you more upset. You are advised to follow your intuitions before making important decisions today.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be able to implement business plans successfully with support of your subordinates. You may be involved in some social or family get together, which may boost your network. You may go on short business-related trips, which may give you benefits in the near future.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today is a good day; your financial health is likely to be good. You may get benefits from your past investments. You may have control over your spendings, which may boost your savings. Love birds are advised to be polite while conversing with the partner, otherwise there might be some conflicts between them.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon; a good day for you. You have good vitality and energy. You may enjoy work and romantic moments with your spouse, which may improve family harmony. You are likely to make new plans to start some new project. Your perfection may help you to design the flowchart. Job aspirants will find a good job. Love birds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may get disappointed. You are advised to control your arrogance, otherwise you may face losses due to your speaking abilities. Love birds should be careful in discussions, otherwise, their relationship may get affected.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon; new sources of income may open. Your past investments will now start paying in terms of profits. Your losses will convert into profits, which will boost your financial health. Health issues related to parents may resolve.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be very happy. You will be busy at work. Your seniors may be happy and appreciate your work. You may have some changes in your place, position or responsibilities at work, in terms of promotions. Your opponents and hidden enemies may get under control now. Singles and love birds may make important decisions in terms of marriage with the help of relatives or friends.

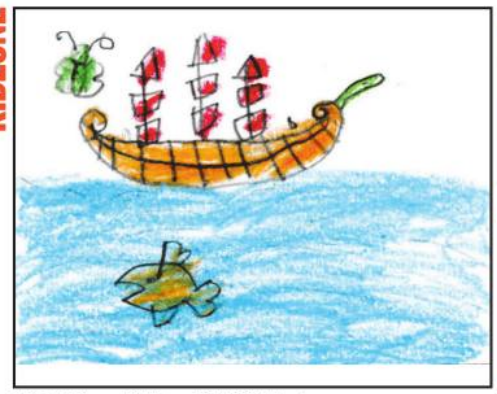
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, messy situations are under control. You are blessed by the moon. You may initiate your postponed works. With the blessing, you may get rewarded for your hard work. There are some gains in your business, which may boost your finances. You may spend money on artefacts or literature. You may also plan to travel overseas.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may be busy with family issues. You may explore your extra sources of income in terms of gains. You may take interest in artefacts, movies and glamour, which may improve your creativity. Love birds have a clear view in terms of their relationship. Students may now go ahead with their aim in terms of career.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may not feel well; you might have health issues. This may affect your profession and domestic life. You may get upset due to your spouse's health issues. Your patience may be tested many times. You are advised not to make investments in new business projects, otherwise you may face losses. Students are advised to avoid fantasy and should work hard in their studies.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you are blessed by the positive moon. You may feel healthy; old health issues may get cured now. Money, which was stuck somewhere, may get recovered now. You may also apply for a loan for buying some luxury items.

KIDZONE



Felicia, 5 Years, St. Vincent Pallotti School

Shoana Anjum, 11 Years, New St. Joseph's Primary & High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$\sqrt{12+(4+4(3+6))}$ =
$\sqrt{2+(4+4(3+18))}$ =
$\sqrt{2+(4+4(21))}$ =
$\sqrt{2+(4+84)}$ =
$\sqrt{12+88}$ =
$\sqrt{100}$ = 10

BULL'S EYE
cusp, pest, puce, puss, step, SUSPECT, upset

STRIKE OUT

W	O	R	L	D	L	Y	O	F	A	L	L	E	D	
N	A	S	T	I	E	R	I	E	T	R	A			
A	C	O	R	N		C	E	A	S	I	N	G		
E	S	T	A	T	E		C	E	A	S	E	D		
C	R	I	P	P	L	E		L	O	R	A	N		
	I		D	A	S	H		T		A				
	N		Y		C			O		N				
L	A	U	D	I	N	G		B	E	A	R	D		
	A		R		A		E		Z		A			
A	R	I	A		P	A	R	S	N	I	P	S		
A	W	M		D	O		O	S						
D	J	A	N	G	O		A	I	R	W	A	Y		

FAST FIVE

S	P	A	T	E
L	U	P	I	N
M	A	R	G	E
U	P	E	N	D
P	L	Y	E	R

RIDDLER
A boat

QUICK

R	S	G		S	E	S								
W	E	P	E	R		U	R	G	I	N	G			
T		E		O		D		U						
R	A	C	E	G	O	E	R		U	R	N	S		
E		W		C		T		L						
S	T	A	S	H		M	I	S	I	V	E			
N		Y		C				O						
L	A	U	D	I	N	G		B	E	A	R	D		
	A		R		A		E		Z		A			
A	R	I	A		P	A	R	S	N	I	P	S		
A	W	M		D	O		O	S						
D	J	A	N	G	O		A	I	R	W	A	Y		

MENSA PUZZLE
1. Starting at F and moving anti-clockwise, letters move through the alphabet in steps of 2, 3, 4, 5 etc.

QUOTE UNCODE
I told my psychiatrist that everyone hates me. He said I was being ridiculous - everyone hasn't met me yet.

SUDOKU

5	9	1	7	2	3	4	8	6
7	6	3	4	9	8	2	1	5
4	8	2	5	1	6	9	3	7
9	2	5	1	8	4	6	7	3
3	1	7	2	6	9	8	5	4
6	4	8	3	5	7	1	9	2
1	3	9	6	4	5	7	2	8
8	5	4	9	7	2	3	6	1
2	7	6	8	3	1	5	4	9

ALPHA TRIANGLE
B, Bi, Rib, Brie, Tribe, Obliter, Debitor.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 − 2 + 5 − 3 = 5
Medium
8 × 9 − 2 − 8 = 62
Hard
6 − 5 + 2 × 4 = 12

LOOP

KAKURO

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Sudeep's look for Kabzaa is out

Star's clothes, look, and even moustache planned around the period the film is set in

Sudeep recently got on board director R Chandru's most anticipated film of the year, Kabzaa. The pan-India star will be playing a pivotal role as Bhargav Bhakshi, and this has created a huge buzz.

The actor will be sharing screen space with Real Star Upendra, who is playing the lead. The duo had previously teamed up for Mukunda Murari, and this will be their second outing together.

Chandru (**inset**), who is directing Sudeep for the first time, says of the star that he is energetic, and his screen presence will further elevate the film. "It is also a double dhamaka to see Sudeep and Upendra in a single frame," the director tells us as he shares Sudeep's first look. "More details about their characters will be revealed later," Chandru adds.

The story revolves around the underworld of 1947. A lot of research has gone into designing Sudeep's character. His costumes, look and even the mustache were worked out to match that period. "This is a pan-India film, and we are leaving no stone unturned to make it authentic. Capturing every scene with Sudeep was a delight. I was happy to learn that Sudeep sir is satisfied with my work," he says.

Kabzaa is following the KGF route and will see a multilingual release. The film, being shot in Kannada, Tamil, and Telugu, will be dubbed and released in Malayalam, Hindi, Marathi, and Bengali. As for release plans, Chandru says he is waiting for KGF release, after which he plans to fix the date. "Kabzaa has created an equal buzz like that of Prashanth Neel's KGF, and SS Rajamouli's RRR. With two big stars in the film, this has generated huge expectations. There is a lot of demand in terms of satellite and digital rights, and this has put a lot of responsibility on me," he says.

The film, made under the Sri Siddeshwara Entertainments banner, is backed by MTB Nagaraj. The film's music is composed by Ravi Basrur, editing by Mahesh Reddy and cinematography by AJ Shetty. The cast also includes Jagapathi Babu, Rahul Dev, Anup Revanna, Kabir Duhan Singh, Danish Akhtar Saifi, Pradeep Rawat, among others.

— Mahesha H

Gymming on X-Mas

Samantha Ruth Prabhu refuses to skip her workout routine amid the festive mood. While the world celebrated Christmas, the actor decided to hit the gym early morning. Samantha posted a workout video on Instagram, wherein she was snapped doing Yoga with her best friend Shilpa Reddy. Apart from dishing out fitness inspiration, Samatha also gave style goals with her chic black athleisure.

Previously, Samantha and Shilpa Reddy had taken off to the Himalayas for a Char Dham yatra. The duo dropped several adorable pictures on Instagram, giving fans a sneak-peek of their spiritual outing. The 'Family Man 2' actress had also penned a note expressing how she always wanted to visit the Himalayas after she read Mahabharata. Earlier this year Samantha hit headlines after she announced her separation from Naga Chaitanya. Samantha had shared the news with her fans on her social media account.